



# WATER QUALITY REPORT

*Water testing performed in 2009*



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## Meeting the Challenge

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2009. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions, we are always available to assist you. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.



For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Al Purvis, Chief Water Operator, at (352) 728-9845 or visit our Web site at [www.leesburgflorida.gov](http://www.leesburgflorida.gov).

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our city commission meetings and to voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet at 5 p.m. on the third floor of City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. City Hall is located at 501 W. Meadow Street in Leesburg.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Our source of supply for the City of Leesburg-Plantation water system is groundwater taken from the Floridan Aquifer within the Oklawaha watershed. We currently have three (3) deep wells in our system located within the community. Chlorination in the gas form (Cl<sub>2</sub>) is used for disinfection purposes. Plantation has 54 thousand gallons of storage capacity and serves 2856 meter connections, representing an estimated population of 5141 customers.

To learn about your watershed on the Internet, go to the U.S. EPA's Surf Your Watershed Web site at [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

## Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Water lawns only when needed and only on your designated days. No watering is allowed between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Check to ensure that your rain sensor device and automatic irrigation timers are working properly. Position sprinklers so that you are watering the lawn and plants, not sidewalks and streets.

Do not irrigate when we have received adequate rainfall (3/4 inches) or during a rain event. For more information and tips on conserving water, visit the St. Johns River Water Management web site at [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com).



## Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production

and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-Connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/crossconnection.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/crossconnection.html). You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Lead and Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/).

## Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhome](http://www.epa.gov/watrhome)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has a Web site ([www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Florida, including valuable information about our watershed.

## Water Treatment Process

Chlorine in gas form is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.)

## Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Radiological Contaminants <sup>1</sup>							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	6/08	No	1.8	NA	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 [Combined Radium] (pCi/L)	6/08	No	1.0	NA	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	1/08	No	1	NA	NA	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	1/08	No	0.12	NA	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive that promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Lead [point of entry] (ppb)	1/08	No	6	NA	NA	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1/09	No	0.207	NA	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	1/08	No	4.950	NA	NA	160	Salt water intrusion; leaching from soil
Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products <sup>2</sup>							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine (ppm)	1/09–12/09	No	1.96	1.35–2.60	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5] (ppb)	7/09	No	14.5	13.0–32.3	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	7/09	No	7.81	7.81–70.1	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)**

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AL EXCEEDED (YES/NO)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
<b>Copper [tap water]</b> (ppm)	7/08	No	1.19	2	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Lead [tap water]</b> (ppb)	7/08	No	2.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>Results in the Level Detected column for radiological and inorganic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

<sup>2</sup>For chlorine, the level detected is the the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations, including Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) results as well as Stage 1 compliance results.

## Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**IDSE (Initial Distribution System Evaluation):** An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):**

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).